La State University Baton Rouge
Oct 3. 1870

Prof John Torrey
of New York.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Dear Sir.

It is about 15 years ago that I wrote you a letter, making some inquiries about botanical works and other matters. Since that time botanical science has considerably advanced, and your world-wide reputation as an eminent botanist has received universal acknowledgment. My own circumstances were such that I had but little opportunity of engaging in botany as a practical pursuit, except at long intervals. About a year ago however I was appointed to one of the professorships of the La State University now located in this city. Since that time I have

been connected with a surveying party whose duty it is to examine the geology topography and botany of the State of Louisiana, and report annually to the State Legislature. It has thus become my special business to collect all the plants which grow in Louisiana, and up to the present time I have collected dried determined classified and arranged in herbarium form about 700 – 800 specimens, including flowering plants, grasses, ferns sedges rushes algae mosses lichens & fungi. A wide field of investigation, indeed, and which will require years for its accomplishment. I have determined 40 or 50 specimens of the most ordinary grasses, but I have still 41 specimens of the more rare grasses, and 50 Cyperaceae &, Juncaceae which are not yet determined. I have just completed a neat little herbarium of 106 undetermined specimens, stating the locality of their growth and a few other characteristics; including 15 flowering plants

which as yet I have not been able to determine
each of which being accompanied by a description
of their characteristics, as far as ascertained.
In your polite letter to me dated March 19
1855 you stated that in case I met with
difficulty in the determination of particular plants
you would endeavor to name them for me,
if I send you the specimens. Induced by this
suggestion, I would like to avail myself, after
the lapse of so many years, of your kindness,
therefore ask you, if you would be willing to under-
take the task. The collection to be sent to you
being specially arranged for that purpose, each specimen
being numbered corresponding to the number of the
duplicates in my possession. Should you determine
to do me the favor I would send you the
herbarium by mail or express, as soon as your affirm-
ative answer is received. The specimen would
have to be determined by the 1st of December, so
as to give me time to include them in my report
to the legislature in which I would give you

due credit for your assistance. As soon as the report is published I shall send you a copy which will contain a full list of all the plants thus far collected. Any information I can give you as regard the botany of Louisiana, I would communicate with pleasure.

Is your Flora of the U.S. this side the Rocky mountains published in full and where can it be purchased?

Please accept the assurance of my highest consideration Yours very truly

A. Featherman

CORRESPONDENCE
DEPARTMENT

Please give your address

La State University Baton Rouge Oct 4. 1870

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Prof John Torrey

New York

Dear Sir!

I sent you a letter yesterday by mail asking you whether you would be willing to determine a number of plants for me, and proposing to send you the undetermined specimens as soon as your affirmative answer is received. But since that letter was written it occurred to me that how much time would be consumed awaiting your reply, and that trusting to your generosity I would send you by mail the package of plants principally composed of grasses & Sedges. all at once. Accordingly I have this day dispatched to you

the collection of which I spoke in my last letter. It is possible that several specimens may be double represented, as I had no time to examine them minutely, and it is also possible that some of the specimens may be insufficient for determination. If this should be the case, on informing me of it and giving me the number I may be able to supply the insufficient, if not immediately at least at some future time. Should you however, contrary to my expectations, decline to undertake the task please retain the package at my disposal until I can inform where to send it.

Please write to me as soon as you receive the package stating whether you can find time to comply with my request.

Accept the assurance of my highest consideration and believe me

Yours truly

C. C. Frothingham

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.